

*Association of American Foreign Service Women*

*P.O. Box 8068, Washington, D.C. 20024*

For all members of the Association of American Foreign Service Women (who include CIA spouses), I wish to thank you for your support of the recent legislation modifying the CIA Retirement and Disability System to provide vested rights to retirement and survivor benefits for widows and former wives of CIA overseas officers.

Our membership has long been aware of the need for such legislation. In the nearly two years that the parallel legislation (provided by the Foreign Service Act of 1980) has been in effect, we have seen the fundamental value of this kind of legislation. Women who formerly faced real poverty after a lifetime of service to their country now are rewarded with a secure old age. In many cases, children of the family are being better provided for than would have been the case otherwise. For example, we have found that in most cases the mother is given custody of minor children; her financial security is shared by her children. This cannot help but benefit our country in the years ahead--as the children mature into worthwhile citizens. For the women still serving abroad, the message is clear that our country recognizes and honors their service.

We believe that this legislation is a factor contributing to the increased number of applications for entry into the Foreign Service

Again, on behalf of the entire AAFSW membership, may I express our gratitude to you for your participation in the process that has brought about this much-needed legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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, President